IWDP in Chhattisgarh

† 1876. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) the details of results achieved so far in the State under Integrated Wasteland Development Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) 43 projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) have been sanctiond to Chhattisgarh at a total cost of Rs. 149.38 crores for treatment of an area of 2,52,682 hectares since 1.4.1995. A total of Rs. 50.45 crores have been released from 1.4.1995 till date to the State. Zilla Panchayat is the nodal agency for implementation of the programme in the State. In the current financial year, 15 new projects for treatment of an area of 70000 ha. at a total cost of Rs. 42.00 crores have been sanctioned to the State and first instalment of Central share amounting to Rs. 5.775 crores for these projects has been released to the concerned Zilla Panchayats. Total funds released including on-going projects during the year 2005-06 amounts to Rs. 9.069 Crores so far. Areas not identified as DPAP blocks in the State are eligible for IWDP projects.

(b) The impact assessment studies conducted and the mid-term evaluation reports of ongoing projects in the State of Chhattisgarh show that the net sown area and area sown more than once have increased in project areas. Water table levels are also reported to have increased by 1 to 2 meters in 74% of the wells in the watershed areas. Water harvesting structures and water bodies created in the project areas have substantially increased the irrigation potential. Nearly 70% of the respondents (both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) reported an increase in fuel wood and fodder availability following the implementation of the programme. Income generating capacity has increased as a result of vocational trainings being imparted to the stack-holders. Out migration of the job seekers from project areas has substantially reduced.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.